

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a non-final Office action dated August 26, 2003. Claims 1-20 were examined. The following issues raised by the Office are addressed below: I) the specification was objected to because of missing application numbers; and II) claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I) Objection to the Specification

The specification has been amended to add the missing application numbers.

II) Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)*Independent Claims 1, 9, and 19.*

The Office rejected independent claims 1, 9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,920 issued to Ghaffari et al. (hereinafter "Ghaffari") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,621 issued to Keller (hereinafter "Keller"). The Applicant respectfully refers the Office to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), which states that subject matter which qualifies as prior art only under 102(e) shall not preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103 "if the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." Keller is prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and both the present application and Keller are assigned to a common assignee, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. The Applicant submits, therefore, that the combination of Ghaffari and Keller is improper, and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection of independent claims 1, 9, and 19 and allow them to issue.

Dependent Claims 3, 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-18, and 20

Inasmuch as all pending dependent claims depend, either directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims 1, 9, and 19, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

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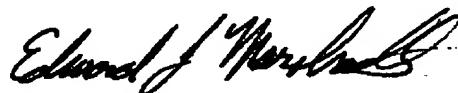
CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-20 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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